

ELECTRICAL BOARD MEETING
Summary Minutes
April 29, 2004

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Joe Devish, Mike Hendrix, Philip Parker, Lea Gaskill, Chuck Greg, Fred Tricarico, Gloria Ashford, David A. Bowman, David S. Bowman, David Jacobsen, Richard Alford, Jim Simmons, and Secretary/Chief Electrical Inspector Ronald Fuller.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Chairman Devish began the meeting recognizing Jean E. Meyn, Assistant Attorney General, for all her work and introduced Donna Emmingham, Assistant Attorney General. Jean's official last day as Board counsel is May 10, 2004, and Donna will become the Board's new counsel. Jean expressed her enjoyment working with the Board and applauded the work the Board has done as volunteer members. Joe recognized Jean for all her work and wished her well. Jean will continue to be a resource for Donna regarding Board related issues.

Item 1 Approve Minutes

The minutes of the January 29, 2004 meeting were approved as written.

Item 2 Department Update

Patrick Woods also expressed his appreciation for the AG's help with ongoing issues.

Patrick reported that the legislature did move forward with moving the \$7 million from the electrical fund, despite the request not to take it. Currently there is \$11 million in the Electrical fund, after the \$7 million is sent back to the states general fund, there will only be \$4 million. Patrick stated that the department would request overhead cost to be offset the amount already paid by the electrical fund.

Patrick informed the Board that Ron is working on compliance and has developed a SAFES (Strategic Action for Electrical Safety) division to work on compliance across the state. Their focus is to create a level playing field and to emphasize on public safety by ensuring everyone is getting a permit.

Patrick asked for any questions from the Board. Chairman Devish asked if there was any news on phase 2 of the overheard study with regard to Attorney General and Information Services costs. There is no update yet, Mike Ratko is working on that and hopefully there will be an update at the next Electrical Board meeting.

Item 3 Electrical Revenue/Expenditure Report

As of April, the fund balance is at 3.6 million. Ron stated that March was a good month and that revenue keeps increasing because of more inspection and permit requests.

Item 4 Appeals**4A Warren Riddle – Timeliness of appeal**

Jean Meyn reviewed the WAC changes regarding timeliness of an appeal. The Board heard from Warren and Sylvia Riddle addressing the timeliness of their appeal. The motion to uphold the Finding of Fact Conclusions of Law and Order signed by Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) David G Hansen, passed. The ALJ decision stands for citation 48882, 48883 and 48885.

Item 5 Presentation of Final Orders

No final orders were presented.

Item 6 Secretary Report

Ron Fuller presented the following report:

Revenue Status

The Electrical Fund balance through February 2004 was \$3.67 million.

Customer Service

During this past quarter, contractors used the Internet Purchasing of Electrical Permits (IPEP) system to purchase 11,544 permits. The quarterly average of all permit purchases is up 4% from last quarter to 36%.

During this past quarter, contractors used the Electrical Inspection Request Service (EIRS) to request 15,525 inspections. The quarterly average of all inspection requests done via EIRS is 1% from last quarter to 26%.

The SAFES (Strategic Action for Electrical Safety) project is underway. The department has hired a temporary supervisor and three temporary electrical inspectors for the project. SAFES will operate as a team across the state and will be coordinating with local inspectors and city jurisdiction to achieve the maximum effectiveness. They will also discover and make referrals to the department's other programs for violations of the general contracting, industrial insurance, and jobsite safety laws. In addition, SAFES will outreach to entities that are in violation of the electrical laws to inform them of the law and assist them in gaining compliance. The Chief's office will also be coordinating an effort between Region 1 and Region 5 to increase the use of the IPEP and EIRS systems and communicating more effectively with out stakeholders.

Rule Revisions

Public hearings, for the proposed changes to WAC 296-46B, are scheduled for May 11, 2004 in Spokane and May 12, 2004 in Tumwater.

Testing Lab Report

No new testing labs have been approved.

Performance Measures

<u>Electrical Scorecard from July 2003 through December 2003</u>	
Goal (Target)	<u>State Totals</u>
1. Citations/Inspector/Month (1.5)	1.5
2. % Targeted Citations/Total Citations (45%)	38.3%
3. # of Individual Corrections/Contractor Corrections (<7.8)	4.2
4. % Stops <24 hours (89%)	88.8%
5. % Finals A/C of Finals Eligible (15%)	11.6%
6. # of Stops/Inspector Day (workload indicator only)	9.5

Electrical Licensing – This unit is now fully staffed and is doing a good job meeting their goals.

Electrical Plan Review – Plan review has hired two new temporary staff to assist with the workload and we are beginning to see some improvement in the backlog. In process of hiring a permanent supervisor and 1 temporary assistant to assist with plan backlogs.

Ron mentioned the outstanding accomplishments of the SAFES team and that he felt they were performing right on track with citations. Jim Hinrichs, temporary Electrical Compliance Supervisor, introduced himself and his staff. Jim stated that the staff had undergone a week of intense training and had been in the field for about 2 ½ weeks writing about 80 citations, making about 18 referrals to audit and several referrals to the construction compliance division.

Chairman Devish asked how the team got their leads and what the plan was for going statewide. Jim explained to the Board that they received tips from electrical supervisors for gross violations, building officials, labor unions, and anyone who has information that they are willing to share with him. Ron added that the electrical industry provided him with positive responses and feedback. SAFES have also received leads from the utility companies and independent contractors for compliance issues.

Ron also explained that for the first time the names of violators' that have final judgments are being published in the Electrical Currents. March 2004 was the first edition with this information and the department plans to publish that on a quarterly basis.

Ron reported that the electrical program recently held a symposium; which included all the electrical field supervisor's, several of the compliance managers and the regional administrator liaison for electrical. The panelist represented several stakeholders groups and they offered many positive comments. There were some issues but when the panelist was asked to provide more details it was discovered that the issues were from several years ago and that things had been much better recently.

Item 7 Certification Quarterly Report

Ron explained that the current report had not been received from LaserGrade. Ron reported that he would like to see LaserGrade provide the department a more detailed report that will include the number of times an individual takes the exam.

Ron mentioned that he had recently made a trip to Montana, where he met with the Montana Electrical Board. They have agreed to work with Washington in developing exam questions. Wyoming also expressed an interest to assist with developing exam questions. In August, at the multi-state reciprocal meeting we will present the arrangement with Montana to the other states and hopefully several more states will take part as well.

Item 8 Continuing Education

Ron disclosed that the department sent the contract proposal out but only two bids were received. The lower bid would have cost the department's customer double; and the higher bid would have tripled the cost to the department's customers. For this and other reasons Ron recommended not moving forward with the contract. He did provide an alternate solution, which was to dissolve the Board's CEU sub-committee and for the Board to delegate the review to the department. Joe explained that the Board CEU sub-committee is only delaying the CEU's process, because the department has already done a thorough review. A motion was made and passed for the department to review CEU courses for the Board.

Item 9 Independent Power Producer Policy # 04-01

Ron presented proposed policy #04-01 regarding Independent Power Producers. This policy was the outcome of testimony heard at the Board's January 2004 meeting and two additional stakeholder meetings. The policy sets the definition of an independent power producer (IPP) and the installation size must exceed 115 KVA, this number was used because the utilities expressed this was what they used to differentiate residential from commercial. A motion was approved to adopt policy #04-01 as written.

Item 10 Legislative, WAC and Boiler/Electrical Update

Ron explained a few minor typographical changes to the WAC 296-46B-334. He also discussed additional changes to WAC 296-46B-970 which relaxed the instruction classifications and reduced the minimum classroom hours from four (4) hours to two (2) hours). A motion to accept the changes to the WAC rules as define was approved. Ron also stated that the changes to the WAC rule should be effective in June 2004.

Ron reviewed the PowerPoint handouts and minutes from the Electrical/Boiler stakeholder meeting. The Electrical Board and Board of Boiler Rules will need to have a joint special meeting to address issues and prepare a report for the Legislature that is due December 1, 2004. The proposed joint meeting date is schedule for June 15, 2004.

Item 11 Amusement Ride Update

Ron stated that he was contacted by Senator Eide to discuss regulation of the carnival industry. After discussion with Senator Eide, Ron feels she would be amenable to support legislation that would drastically revise the carnival statue. Some possible changes would place the amusement revenue into the electrical fund and to allow the department to impose civil penalties. Ron explained that waterslides were taken out of the draft WAC because the Department of Health regulates waterslides for both the water quality and mechanical functions.

Other

Jeremy Smithson, from Puget Sound Solar, an installer of photovoltaic and other solar systems presented the Board with information regarding the solar industry. Jeremy mentioned that the solar industry is growing at a huge rate; there was a 33% increase of equipment sales in the U.S. last year. The industry is working on legislation to provide incentive programs in Washington.

David S. Bowman asked if the cell is single phase or three phase. Jeremy replied that there are both, but mostly three phase. Chairman Devish asked about the efficiency. Jeremy answered that they typical systems conversion rate is 12 – 14 percent and that manufacturer's have announced that more efficient products are being introduced that could increase by about 50 percent. Mike Hendrix asked about the cost for KW. Jeremy replied that the cost is ranging between \$5 to \$9 per watt of photovoltaic rated power.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.